

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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TO AMEMBASSY ROME

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, IT

SUBJ: NOTES FROM FRIULI

1. BERLINGUER'S VISIT. PCI SECRETARY BERLINGUER FINISHED HIS TWO-DAY TRIP TO FRIULI SEPTEMBER 28, FOLLOWING A SIX-HOUR TRIP THE DAY BEFORE THROUGHOUT THE HARDEST HIT AREAS IN THE EARTHQUAKE ZONE. BILLED BY "UNITA" AS THE ONLY TRIP OF ITS KIND BY A MAJOR POLITICAL LEADER TO THE AREA, BERLINGUER AT A MEETING IN UDINE SEPTEMBER 27, SAID FRIULI WOULD BE A DETERMINING FACTOR IN THE PCI'S ATTITUDE TOWARDS THE ANDREOTTI GOVERNMENT.

2. HOMELESS. THE LOCAL PRESS QUOTES ESTIMATES THAT ABOUT 95,000 PEOPLE ARE HOMELESS AS A RESULT OF THE MAY AND SEPTEMBER QUAKES. OF THESE ABOUT 40,000 REPORTEDLY HAVE BEEN HOUSED IN THE ADRIATIC COASTS TOWNS OF GRADO, ETC. ABOUT 50,000 REPORTEDLY ARE STILL HOUSED IN TENTS, TRAILERS, ETC. IN THE EARTHQUAKE ZONE. ANOTHER 4,000 ARE ESTIMATED TO HAVE LEFT THE AREA. WHILE THERE IS DISAGREEMENT AMONG VARIOUS OBSERVERS AS TO THE ACCURACY OF THESE FIGURES, AT THE MOMENT AT LEAST THEY SEEM TO BE SERVING AS THE WORKING BASIS FOR PLANNING BY THE ITALIAN AUTHORITIES.

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3. HOUSING NEED. REPORTS ARE THAT ABOUT 11,500 PRE-

FABRICATED UNITS IN ADDITION TO THOSE ALREADY PLANNED OR BUILT (4,000 UNITS) WILL BE NEEDED. AN ESTIMATED 6,000 HOUSE TRAILERS ARE ALSO REQUIRED TO PROVIDE FOR THE TEMPORARY NEEDS OF SHEPHERDS, FARMERS, ETC., WHO CANNOT LEAVE THEIR PLACE OF WORK. SEVERAL THOUSAND TRAILERS HAVE APPARENTLY ARRIVED HERE FROM OTHER AREAS OF ITALY AND OTHERS ARE ON THE WAY.

4. THE REGIONAL COUNCIL MEETS TODAY (SEPTEMBER 28) AND THE EXPECTATION IS THAT THE PSI-PCI PROPOSED "MOTION OF REVOCATION" OF THE REGIONAL GIUNTA WILL NOT BE PRESENTED (TRIESTE 162). INTER ALIA, BERLINGUER DURING HIS SPEECH IN UDINE SEEMED TO PRONOUNCE FAVORABLY ON THE REGIONAL DC'S PROPOSAL FOR CO-OPERATION AMONG "ALL DEMOCRATIC FORCES" IN THE FRIULI.

5. THUS, AS IN PAST WEEKS, THE EARTHQUAKES AND ALL RELATED PROBLEMS CONTINUE TO DOMINATE THE ENERGIES OF THE REGION. IT MAY BE INCREASINGLY TRUE FOR THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT AS WELL. MOEN.

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